



United States Department of the Interior



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/R7/AFES

Report # B-7: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Report to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, June 2019.

The following information is a summary of the major updates from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) that the Service is involved in related to the affairs of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

I. Federal Subsistence Fisheries

Anticipated Federal Subsistence Management Pre-Season Closures:

During the 2018 fishing seasons, numerous Federal subsistence fisheries for Sockeye and Chinook Salmon across Alaska were restricted or closed due to highly variable returns or low abundance. Subsistence users have raised concerns that these trends will continue during the 2019 season.

Currently, two Federal subsistence fisheries are closed to the harvest of Chinook Salmon for 2019. The Situk River in the Yakutat area has been closed due to low projected returns. The Stikine River has been closed because the forecast for this run requires an automatic closure, through the Pacific Salmon Treaty, due to no harvestable surplus.

Special Action Requests to the Federal Subsistence Board in 2019:

The Federal Subsistence Board has taken action on a special action request from the Akiak Native Community to limit the take of Chinook Salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage to federally qualified users. The Federal Subsistence Board further restricted the harvest of Chinook Salmon based on an Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Section 804 Subsistence User Prioritization analysis, and allowed the Federal in-season manager to set harvest opportunities based on run size indicators.

For further information, contact Office of Subsistence Management State Fishery Biologist Mr. Scott Ayers, at scott_ayers@fws.gov or 907-786-3822.